A

Mad VVorld my maſters,

Miſtake me not.

O R,

A merry *Dialogue* betweene two *Trauellers*,

The *Taker*, and *Miſtaker*:

Being very Delightfull, Pleaſant, and Profitable to all.

LONDON.

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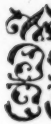

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To the Reader.

IF I bee not miſtaken, there are many Takers and Miſtakers in this world, who take themſelues to bee wiſe with a little wit, and rich with a little wealth. Some are taken for religious, that with their hypocriſie couſin a number of ſimple people: Other are taken for good men, that have a little more wealth then honeſty: And ſome are taken for fooles, that have more conſcience then cunning: but happy are they, who take the right courſe to their ſoules comfort. In this diſcourſe following, you ſhall ſee divers pretty paſſages betwixt the Taker and Miſtaker, perhaps as

To the Reader.

pleasing for the mirth, as profitable for the matter. Now how every one will take it, I know not. The best minds I know will take nothing ill that is meant well; and for the worst, they know not how to take any thing well, how good so ere it be: and therefore intreating every man to take it as he list, lest I should bee beholding to I know not whom, for I know not what, I leave to the Stationer *to take his price, and you to take your pleasure; and so rest*

Your friend, if I be not mistaken,

Nicholas Breton.

A

A MERRY Dialogue,

Betweene two Travellers;

DORINDO, *and* LORENZO.

LOrenzo well met, how doeſt thou this faire morning? LOR. A thouſand good morrowes to mine honeſt *Dorindo*: but how goes the world man? no newes ſtirring worth the hearing.

DOR. More then are true, or worth the telling: And therefore I had as leeve hold my peace, as have no thanks for my tatling: but I pray

thee tell me, where haſt thou beene this many a day? I heard that thou haſt beene over the water, I know not how farre.

LOR. Indeede the Sea is a pretty brooke to wade thorow, and a yeeres travell will treade a a prettie piece of ground: but to tell you where I haue beene, I cannot; for my way was long, and my memory is ſhort: But had I time to tell thee that which I cou'd, (at leaſt if my memory would ſerue me) I ſhould make thee like the better of home, and the worſe of travell while thou liveſt.

DOR. And why, I pray thee?

LOR. It is not ſo ſoone anſwered, but rather let me ſay, why not? For much danger, and more feare, little ſafetie, and leſſe gaine, made me wiſh either to have knowne leſſe, or ſomewhat more worth the knowing.

LOR. I pray thee why? were thine eyes not matches, or thy wits out of order?

DOR. Truely, whether the fault be in my wits, or mine eyes, I know not: But I am ſure I was ſo ouertaken in miſtaking of every match that I met withall, that I had as leeve almoſt be an Ignorant, as deceive my ſelfe with imagination.

LOR. True, for as good to loſe thoughts, as to looſe by them: but whence, or whereupon grew

grew this griefe of yours? DOR. I tell you by miſtaking.

LOR. But how I pray you?

DOR. Why, the firſt thing that I was miſtaken in, was my ſelfe: in whom I was the moſt miſtaken of any thing in the world. For, with onely a little obſeruation, I was perſwaded that there was no matter of worth, but I had it by heart; and for trifles, I would not be troubled with them: but, when that reaſon came to ripping up of ſecrets of wiſedomes intelligence, I ſaw my wit ſo wilfull, that I was miſtaken in all matters that I met with.

LOR. What, men, women, and children?

DOR. Yea, onely in them: for touching other creatures, I made no great care of my conceipt of them. But now to tell thee, in my travells how I was miſtaken: to run over all my courſes, it were too tedious, let ſuffice as much as may make thee merry to heare, and wiſe to remember. Firſt, when I left my Countrey, and came aboord the *Buon-a-venture*, wee had no ſooner weighed Anker, hoiſſed ſailes, and put to ſea, but with a freſh gale of winde, and faire weather, wee were ſo merry above hatches, that me thought there was none ſo merry alive, as the Saylers. But wee had not thus paſſed five leagues, till the skie was over-caſt, the winde

came about, and grew high, the ayre thick and foggie, and the drizling raine came ſo beating in our faces, that wee were glad to get under hatches: where wee were ſcarcely ſet in our Cabbins, but the tempeſt grew ſo great, the windes ſo rough, and the waves ſo high, that we were glad with throwing out almoſt all the goods into the Sea, to ſaue our lives in the bare veſſell. Now when I came on ſhore, well moiled and poore, having loſt all that I had abord, more then a little money in my purſe, which was ſo little, as that I will ſay little of it: I began to thinke with my ſelfe, how I was miſtaken, to thinke, that one faire day, and a little faire weather, could make me thinke, that the ſaylers life (which every minute is ſubject to danger of one harme or other, and betwixt a bord and the water, hath a walke, but in a ſhort and unſteadie roome) ſhould be compared to the land life, where there is pleaſure in the faire weather, and ſhelter againſt the foule, and no feare of wind or water, nor many other dangers which I omit to ſpeake of. And in ſtead of a whirle-poole in the water, a walk large enough to walke man and horſe too, till they were both weary. Now heere was my firſt miſtaking.

LOR. It may be, if the weather had held faire, and that you had met with a good prize, you would

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would not have thought your ſelfe miſtaken in the merry life of the marriner.

Dor. Indeed ſomtime the joy of taking, helps the miſery of miſtaking.

Lor. Yea, but when the thiefe that hath taten a purſe, if he be overtaken in the hig-hway, and ſo take the galloves for his Inne, that joyfull taking in the beginning, brings a ſorrowfull miſtaking in the end.

Dor. Well, as for that part, it is none of my play, and therefore I will leave it to them that love it.

Now to tell thee of my ſecond miſtaking. When I had been a little on ſhore, had weathered my ſelfe, dried my clothes, filled my belly, and emptied my purſe, I now beganne to thinke how my witts ſhould worke for my welfare: and firſt intending to ſeeke entertainement of ſome Noble Perſon, that would honourably looke into the vertues, valour, and good qualities of a good mind, I began to put on a reſolution to aduenture any fortune, and indure any diſcomfort, that might be a hinderance to my happineſſe. And with this reſolution, travelling till I was weary, almoſt penileſſe, and exceedingly hungry; I came to the view of a goodly, faire, and gorgiouſly built houſe, which ſtood as it were a mile from a Citie neere adjoyning.

joyning. Now in hope there to find ſome ſuch perſon as I before ſpake of, I began to rowze up my ſelfe, as one that had an aſſured hope, at leaſt of ſome good victuall, I meane of a good dinner ſcot-free, howſoever otherwiſe fortune would be my friend. When ere I would aproch too neere the houſe, leſt I ſhould be ſeene in in any unfit manner, I combed my beard, gartered up my ſtockings, truſſed every point, buttoned every button, and made my ſelfe ready in the beſt manner I could, to appeare before the preſence of ſuch as I ſhould meete withall in this gallant manſion. But when I came neere unto the houſe, and finding the doore ſhut, I did imagine (being about the mid time of the day) that the ſeruants were all at dinner, and the lord of the houſe either laid downe to ſleepe, or gone into his cloſet, to talke upon ſome accounts with his ladie: but hearing no ſound of any noyſe, nor voice within of either man or dogge, I feared ſome ill fortune, that there was ſome great ſickneſſe, or danger of death that might dampe the ſpirits, and ſo cauſe the ſorrow of the whole houſe: but ſtaying a while, and neither hearing any voice within, nor any poore creature without at the gate, that might hope of almes from the hall, I feared the charitie within was ſo little, that my

comfort

comfort without would be according: but after that I had ſtood a while, loth to looſe time, I knocked at the doore; where I knocked long, before I had any anſwere, and in the end was ſaluted at a window farre within by an old fellow, who, it ſhould ſeem, to ſave a groate, had ſlept out his dinner; whoſe ſpeech (with a wide mouth gaped out) was this: What lacke you? My friend (quoth I) I pray you let me ſpeake with you. No (quoth he) I cannot come down, I am buſie, my maſter is not at home, and here is no body in the houſe but I and my wife, and ſhee is not well: but ſay your errand, and I will heare you. My errand thought I; was there ever ſuch a kennell for ſuch a curre? doth he take me for ſome ſorrie fellow, or hath hee no better kind of greeting for ſtrangers? And thus while I ſtood muſing, and fretting at my fortune, and this bad fellow, hee ſhut the window: and I with a ſigh, to ſee how I was miſtaken in this faire houſe, turning me from it, I met with a foole in a pyed coate, who looking upon mee, after he had out-laughed himſelfe, told me: Sir, you are miſtaken, this is a Banqueting-houſe, where the gazers are onely fed with conceipts, for there is not a chimney that ſmokes, nor a doore open, it is called Mock-beggar, ha, ha, ha. Now when the foole went thus laugh-

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ing away, and left me more foole to tarry there. Before I ſtirred my foote; out of my pocket I tooke my table-booke, in which I writ downe my ſecond miſtaking.

LOR. Indeede this is too common a miſtaking in many Countries, but it may be you might have given you cauſe to have ſpoken better of it: but indeede faire houſes are for rich men, and cottages for the poore: and therefore being in that predicament, it is no maruell you had no better entertainement. But I pray you proceede with your travell.

DOR. I will tell you, melancholy walking a little from this Mocke-begger, I began to frame my ſelfe to the humour of a cunning begger: when meeting with a grave old man (who by his velvet coate, his golden chaine, and his rich firred gowne, ſhould ſeeme to be at the leaſt, ſome rich Burgar, if not ſome Burgamaſter of ſome Citie) this well apparralled picture with a kind of life that gave the body leave to carry the head upon a ſquare paire of ſhoulders; I in hope to find more comfortable then the faire houſe, maſter Mocke-begger; I ſaluted with a great reverence, and requited with a proud nod, I yet aduentured to bord with a few words. When hoping to have found him a man of no leſſe underſtanding ſpirit; to judge

judge of the eſtate and conditions of men, then bounty, in the reliefe of the unfortunately diſtreſſed, I fell aboord with him with theſe words. Sir, I thinke you have heard of the hard fortune of the *Buon-a-venture*, who put into your harbour this other night, hardly ſaving her life, with loſſe of all her goods, and ſome of her people. My ſelfe, with much adoe, well weather-beaten as you may ſee, with ſome few that lie ſicke in the haven, got to ſhore, and am now travelling towards your Citie heere before mee. Loth I am to enter into any baſe courſe for my comfort: but, if I might be beholding to your good favour, in this time of my diſtreſſe, giving me your name withall, I doubt not if I live, but either by my ſelfe, or my better friends, to find a time, either to requite, or deſerue it. He, as one whoſe heart was ſo ſhut up in his purſe, that he underſtood nothing but ware and mony, after a harſh hum, or two, gave me this anſwere; Was there nothing ſaved of her goods I pray you? What was her fraught? Sir, quoth I, it was moſt ſilkes, and ſpices, but ſome pearle, and money, more then would have beene willingly loſt. Good commodities, quoth he; by my fay, a ſhrewd miſchance: I am ſorry for ye, I would I could doe ye good, but I am now in haſt going about a little

a little buſineſſe, and therefore I cannot ſtand to talke with you, God be with you; the towne is hard before you, you will be there anon: but, if you have any jewells or pearle that you have ſaved, I will give you money for it, if I like it. Truely Sir, quoth I, iewells I have not many, onely two rings on my fingers, and this bracelet of Pearle I have ſaved; my bracelet coſt me a hundred crownes, if it pleaſe you to have it of the price it coſt, though againſt my will, I will part with it. With that, upon his bottle-red noſe, he claps on a paire of ſpectacles, and looking on my pearle, found fault with the roundneſſe, and the cleareneſſe, and I know not what elſe, till at the laſt, thinking to make a gaine of my miſery, he offered me ten crownes: ſaying, that he had no need of it; but rather then be diſfurniſhed of money (being a ſtranger) he would aduenture ſo much on it: whereat, I ſwallowed a ſigh, and concealing my diſcontent, deſired him to pardon me, I hoped to find ſome of my countreymen in the City, that I would be as bold as I might withall. Thus with an idle word or two, did I leave this good old gentleman, in whom how much I was, and many moe, no doubt, have beene miſtaken, I referre to the judgement of thoſe that can ſpell him without booke, and may deſire never to come

come neere him within booke. This was my third mistaking: to take the shadow of a man, and the substance of a money-bag, without charity or humanity, by the hypocrytic all figure of gravity, to be a creature of vnderstanding, a man of honour, and a blessed reliever of the miserable.

LOR. Alas, how many thousands are so mistaken? Why, the blessed Saints holinesse, the Martyrs faithfulnesse, the Virgines pureneſſe, and the prayers of the elect, I have heard and read of; but I never heard of any rich apparell, or chaines spoken of among them; for God blesse vs from it, some say the Devill hath a chaine wherein he leades a number into hell; but I hope it is not gold. I know not that, but I thinke not, for muderers hang in iron chaines, and therefore he will not be at cost with them, all alike: but how he doth with the Covetous, the Lecherous, and the ambitious, that knoweth God, and not I.

DOR. But shall I tell you further of my mistakings.

LOR. Yes, for Gods sake.

DOR. Then let me tell you; I had scarcely got within the gates of the City, but that it was my hap to meete with a countreyman of mine owne, and somewhat of alliance unto me. This

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man at firſt ſeeming to be glad to have met me in that city, promiſing me to bring me acquainted with ſome other of my countreymen, and that he would be ready to doe me all the pleaſure he could, this did not a little content me, hoping that for countrey and kindreds ſake, I ſhould find no little friendſhip. But after that he had made me know three or foure of my countrymen, and brought me to an Inne, where for my money I might lodge, neither inuiting me to dinner or ſupper, onely was content to take a cup of Wine of me, and to tell me that he hoped to drinke with me before my going out of towne: thus was I miſtaken both in kin and countrey, to hope of any comfort. But the next morning comming to a Taylors houſe (which was likewiſe a countreyman of mine) I had no ſooner talked with the good man, about the pawning of my bracelet, and taking up of ſome ſtuffe for my apparell, but his wife in an inner roome, almoſt as quicke of eare as of tongue, with a wide gaping mouth came to us with this greeting: Go too, goodman-gooſe, meddle with no pawning nor taking up, you have payd enough for playing the Foole, and yet will be an Aſſe ſtill? I pray you wife quoth he, be quiet: and then to me, truely gentleman, I would be glad to doe you any pleaſure, but I have ſuch a wife

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wife, that I dare doe nothing without her consent: if you bring your ſtuffe, I will doe it you as well, and as good cheape as any man. Now, I that tooke him to bee the maſter of the houſe, was much miſtaken, for the women weare the breeches, and hee was to worke for the houſe: when pittying the poore mans caſe, and much commending his patience, ſorry to thinke how I was miſtaken, I tooke another courſe for my contentment. I was not long in towne before I had learned how to turne pearle into gold, and gold into ſilver, and ſo to furniſh my ſelfe of ſuch neceſſaries as I found moſt fitting for my uſe; whe there paſſed not many dayes before I fell upon another fortune, where I was as I was ſtill in every thing, miſtaken.

LOR. I pray you tell it, we have time enough, and I long to heare it,

DOR. I will tell you. It was my hap, after I had done my devotion in the Church and holy places, paſsing through the ſtreets, beholding aſwell the faire houſes, as ſweete creatures at their doores and windowes; to caſt mine eye upon a very artificiall faire, ſharpe-witted, wanton-eyed, and faire-handed, ſmall-footed, ſtraight-bodied, and, as after I found, ſmooth-tongued Gentlewoman, I ſay gentle, for ſhe was ſo gentle, that ſhe was as tame as a little

Filly, that had been brought up all by hand. This fine miſtreſſe, I had ſome hope to doe ſome good upon, when ſetting a good face on this matter, after a courteous ſalutation I fell to kiſsing of her hand: which ſhe endured with ſuch a pleaſing ſmile, as gave me cauſe to proceed further in my purpoſe. I had not ſo ſoone began to goe about her, but ſhe had me at every turne, and in the midſt of my talke would be fidling with a ring, in which was a painted Diamond, that I ware on my finger, which ſhe would commend with wiſhing her hand worthy ſuch a favour. Now I that hoped to have found ſo gallant a wench, as franck-handed, as free-hearted, and as liberall for love, as ready for entertainement, found that artificiall beauty was but a ſhadow, or rather cover of covetouſneſſe, or an inſtrument of wit, to draw on folly into the ruine of prodigality: ſo that here I found my ſelfe ſo miſtaken, that it made me afraid along while after, to be buſie with the female kind.

Lor. In trueth this was a pretty miſtaking: but if ſhe had beene for you, and would have miſtaken you for her husband, by whom you might craftily have beene taken, and ſo beene carried to *Bridewell*, or payed for your pardon; what a taking would you then have beene in?

Dor.

DOR. I know not, but tis better as it was; for as I found it, so I left it. I onely ſpent a few faire words, but not a peny of money, for I would not pay for my repentance: but ſo leaving her, as I found her, with a *Bazo les mains*, went about my buſineſſe: which I had not long followed, but fell upon another miſtaking.

LOR. What may that bee, if you can remember?

DOR. I will tell you. It was my hap to heare of a gallant Captaine that was to doe a piece of ſeruice upon a City of the Turkes, under whom who could get entertainment, might quickly purchaſe both honor and wealth. Now, my youth having beene trained up in armes, and my fortune falling upon ſuch a point, it was not long before I made and got meanes of entertainement at the hands of this gallant ſouldier, of whom I hoped to receive the due of my deſert: but after that he had in many deſperate pieces of ſeruice employed me, and ſaw in me that true valour, that made him in the enuy of my good deſerts, feare ſome neere preſsing towards his pride, in ſtead of advancing my fortune, or rewarding my ſeruice, he ſtill put me upon ſuch continuall exploits, as threatned every houre narrow eſcape of my life. But in the end ſeeing his miſery to make a gaine of thoſe

that did him honour, hand-fasted to the well deseruing, and rather plotting the death, then aduancing the fortunes of the valiant, got meanes for my discharge from him; and sorry to thinke how I was mistaken in him, as I tell you, I left him: when I had not gone farre, but light upon another mistaking.

Lor. And how I pray thee? if it be not troublesome to thee to recite it, I pray thee let me heare it.

Dor. You shall.

The mistaking of a Diuine.

It was my hap in a little field neare unto a Church in a countrey Towne, to overtake a little old man in a gowne, a wide cassock, a night-cap and a corner-cap, by his habit seeming to be a Diuine; of whom I was in hope to find that sacred fruit of Charity, that might be some comfort in my returne: whom beginning to salute with a few Latine words: My friend quoth he, doe not deceiue your selfe, I understand not your Greeke: We here, that dwell farre from the City, and are not troubled with fine eares to our reading, care for no more but to discharge our duties in our places, I meane of a Vicar, for I am no better; the Parson is a man of greater place,

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place, and of faire poſſeſsions, who dwelleth a great way hence, and therefore ſeldome comes into this countrey. I vſe twiſe a yeere to bring him his rent, and perhaps a couple of Capons againſt Chriſtmaſſe for my Land-lady, and that is as much as they looke for. And for my Pariſhioners, they are a kind of people that love a pot of Ale better then a Pulpit, and a Cornericke better then a Church-doore; who comming to divine ſervice, more for faſhion then devotion, are contented after a little capping and kneeling, coughing and ſpitting, to helpe me to ſing out a Pſalme, and ſleepe at the ſecond Leſſon, or awake to ſtand up at the Goſpel, and ſay Amen at The Peace of God; and ſtay till the Banes of Matrimony be asked, or till the Clerke hath cryed a pyed ſtray bullock, a blacke ſheepe, or a gray mare: and then, for that ſome dwell farre off, be glad to be gotten home to dinner. Now we that have no more living then will hardly ſerue to keepe a poore houſe, are not in caſe, God helpe us, to doe any thing for our poore brethren; and therefore my good friend, trouble us not with other ſpeech then we underſtand, leſt if you come afore the Conſtable, he take you for ſome Conjurer, and ſo bring your ſelfe to ſome trouble, which I would be ſorry to ſee: for truely you ſeeme a hand-

handſome man; God hath done his part in you; God be with you. Oh Lord (thought I) is this man poſsible to be a Church-man and knoweth ſo little what belongeth to the Church? Well, this was no little miſtaking: but going a little further, leaving this poore Sir Jenkin to his mother tongue, I overtooke a plaine fellow to my ſeeming clad in a home-ſpun ierkin of ruſſet woolſt, a paire of cloſe breeches of the ſame, a falling band ſomewhat courſer then fine Cambricke, a payre of wollen ſtockings, and a halfe boote, like a good high ſhooe. Now, this plaine out-ſide, I gueſſed to be lined with no excellent ſtuffe in the inſide: and therefore ſomewhat more bouldly then rudely, ſaluted him in this manner: Good fellow well overtaken. You are welcome, quoth hee: but to clap a man on the ſhoulder before you know him, is a point quite out of the rule of all good manners, at leaſt that ever I learned. Alas, quoth I, goodman clowne, can your noſe abide no jeaſt; Yes ſir, quoth he, with my friends; but mine eares have no pleaſure in a foole. This touching me too neere the quicke, replied againe: Oh ſir, quoth I, then if your friends be fooles, you will ſhake hands with them; but a ſtranger will put you out of patience. Hee little mooved herewith, (as it ſeemed) made mee this

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this answere: My friend, I pray you keepe your way, I would be loth to hinder your walke: but if your passion be no greater then my impatience, wee shall not fall out for a trifle. But Sir (quoth I) how might I fall in either with your selfe, or such another, for a matter of good earnest? It seemes you are a man of sence, and had I not given you cause of displeasure, which I am sorry for, I would have acquainted you with some-what, that by your good meanes, I might perhapps be the better for. Truely sir, quoth he, my estate is not such as can make me bountifull to the best deserving; but so farre as discretion will give me leave, I would be glad to pleasure a stranger. My house is not farre hence, but on the further side of this field; whither (if it may be no great hinderance to your travell) I will intreate your patience to a poore pittance, and if in either my aduise, or better meanes I may stead your desire, you shall find that you doe not looke for; nothing that you shall pa. for; and somwhat that perhaps you shall thank me for: & therfore, I pray you beare me company for this night; to morrow you shall take your journey at your pleasure. This kind offer (having no reason to refuse) I tooke most thankfully: and by the way after a few discourses of my fortunes, I acquainted him with the resolution of my in-

tant, which was either to ſerue in the warres, or in Court, or to profeſſe ſome trade, or to follow my ſtudie. To which, I asked his aduice for my good, in all and every one of them: to which, as I propounded the queſtion, he made me this anſwere. And firſt, quoth he, my friend, I am ſorrie, by theſe your diſcourſes, to haue occaſion to call to mind the folly of my youth, which taught me nothing in mine age, but the repentance of loſt time: but for that I haue tried fortune to the uttermoſt of her mallice, and in the end am come to that you ſee, I would be glad to tell you a merry tale, how I was miſtaken in many courſes, before I hit on the right compaſſe: in which if you can gather any thing for your good, I ſhall thinke it the beſt gaine that I haue made of it. Now finding this vnlooked for, and vndeſerued kindneſſe at his hands, and nothing more fitting the humour of my fortune at that time, I intreated him moſt hartily, to make me in this fit ſt to be beholding to him. Whereupon, with a very little preamble, he fell into this plaine trot: I will tell you, when I was yong as you are, and had as little to care for as you haue, being brought up at home with eaſe and plentie, and weary of welfare, would faine haue I know not what, when having the world more at will, then witt to go-

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verne my affections, and a deſire to ſee more then I could well carry away, thinking my mothers beſt creame but bare milke; and others thinneſt milke, as good creame as might make butter; taking leave of no friend, and flattering my thoughts with fortune, I would to ſea forſooth, with a ſight of ſuch ſpirits, as (but that they looked like men (would have made poore people afraid of them: yet theſe were the men with whom (in the more haſt then good ſpeed) I muſt goe loſe abroad what I had gotten at home. When, hoping to have light on ſome good prize, I was taken priſoner with the enemie: of whom being ſtript of that I had, with a few old raggs on my backe, among a few of my fellow ſailors, that were ſet on ſhore in a poore taking, I found how I began to be miſtaken; to leave the land for the Sea, and a ſafe home for a ſtrange harbour. But now on ſhore with my good fellowes in fortune, every man ſhifting for himſelfe, and I trying ſo many wayes to the wood, that I have loſt my ſelfe in the plaine, weurie of doing nothing, began to looke about me for my better profit: but ſuch were my croſſes in all my courſes, that I could never thrive till I got home againe. For to make an abridgement of a long tale, I will tell you: In courting I found more coſt then comfort;

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in warre, more danger then eaſe; in learning, more ſtudie then profit: in trafficke, more gaine then conſcience; in ſeruice, more paine then honour; in marriage, more care then quiet; and in loue, more pleaſure then vertue: ſo that in all my courſes being miſtaken, that I found a croſſe to my comfort in euery of them, I fairely left the Courtier to his curteſies, the ſouldier to his marches, the ſchollar to his ſtudies, the merchant to his trafficke, the married man to his purgatory, and the louer to his vanitie: and home returned to my poore cottage that my parents left me; and, as my wife tells me, my ſonnes ſhall poſſeſſe after me. Heere I liue in a meane courſe, content, and glad of Gods bleſſings, neuer in danger to be miſtaken, becauſe I truſt onely to experience: while doing honor to God, and following my buſineſſe, with the ſweate of my browes, I gaine the foode of my ſences, with my neceſſary appurtenances. O my friend, beleeue me, hee that is contented is rich, while he that is rich is not contented: a little ſufficeth nature, and exceſſe is but hurtfull; beauty but the inchanter of wit; ambition, but the ouerthrow of vertue; couetouſneſſe, the corrupter of conſcience; authoritie, the charge of care; pride, the hate of nature; enuie, the nurſe of malice; and wrath, the inuenter of murther;

murther; ſloth, the loſſe of time; drunkenneſſe, the ſhame of nature; gluttony, the ground of ſickneſſe; and lechery the fire of ſinne. Theſe notes when I had taken by the light of Gods grace, and obſeruation of times, leaving all extremities, I tooke this meane courſe: where though home be homely, yet living quietly and contentedly, I find it true, That he who ſerueth God hartily, liveth happily, and dieth joyfully. Now my good friend, if I might aduiſe you for your good, I would wiſh you to take a ſtayed courſe, and lay away all running humours: looke home. love home, live at home, a ſmall aſſurance is better then a great hope; and a little poſſeſsion then a great poſsibilitie, and when a man hath of his owne, hee neede not borrow of his neighbours. Travell may be pleaſing, and ſeruice hopefull, trafficke gainefull, and wealth powerfull: but a conuement houſe, an honeſt patrimony, a kind wife, obedient children, faithfull ſeruants, and loving neighbours, make ſuch a common wealth of contentment in the true concent of a carefull underſtanding; that a king of a mole-hill, were better then a lord of a great hutch. Oh, to ſee in a faire morning, or a Sunnie evening, the Lambes and Rabbets run at baee, the birds billing, the fiſhes playing, and the flowers budding, who would not leave the

drinking

drinking in an Ale-house, the wrangling in a dicing-house, the lying in a market, and the cheating in a fayre; and thinke that the brightnesse of a faire day, doth put downe all the beauties of the world. But I doubt I grow tedious, and therefore being so neere home, I will intreat your patience till we have supped, and only assure you of a good welcome, to supply the want of better cheere. With this breaking off his talke, he tooke me by the hand and led me into his house, the doore open, as unfearefull of theeves, as unprovided for strangers: where we were at the entry saluted with a modest smile of a kind wife, humble courtesies of most sweet children, due reverence of comely servants, and a table furnished for both the host and a good guest. Here (though no Inne) yet I tooke up my lodging, where with the entertainement of much kindnesse, having fed both body and mind with sufficient comforts, with due thanks for all curtesies, I tooke leave of the whole family, of whom in generall I received kindnesse. In the morning, not too early, receiving an extraordinary golden favour, for a friendly farewell, calling to mind his discourses of mistaking, and noting mine owne crosses in my courses: I tooke his counsell for my comfort, and with as much speed as I could, leaving my travell

travell turned even faire home againe. And thus much for this time of my travell. Now what ſay you of yours? for I am ſure you have not lived alwayes at home.

Lor. Oh fine tale, you were the beſt miſtaken in that man of all other: for, where you hoped well of other, you found the contrary; but of him you thought but little, and found much good. But it is no rare thing: for a man may looke like an Owle, that hath more wit then ten Aſſes; and a woman may bride it like a maid, that hath beene the mother of many children. A King in a Play may be a begger from the ſtage, and a clowted ſhooe may have a pate beyond all the Pariſh. Oh, take heed of a Wolfe in a Lambes skinne, and talke not of hawking, till you have beene a Faulconer: for if a man have not his five witts, he may be a foole in foure of them. But, leſt you take my words for a Lecture, which may bee more tedious then pleaſing, I will a little tell you of my travell, and how I was taken in every corner.

Dor. Yea Sir, now you ſpeake ſomewhat to the matter. If your taking were like my miſtaking, then perhaps we ſhould ſhake hands for our fortunes. But howſoever it was, I pray you make me acquainted with it.

Lor.

LOR. I will, and firſt you ſhall underſtand, that my firſt travell being croſſe the ſeas, I was taken ſhort of my courſe, and by ſtrange people carried to a ſtrange place: where being taken for no worſe then I was, I was uſed no better then I ſhould be. But after that I had got out of this taking, I forthwith fell to deviſe with my ſelfe, what courſe I ſhould take for my comfort. and firſt I would take upon me to be a Courtier, when I would be ſo gay; as if honour attended upon colours: but wiſemen taking me as I then was, but a foole, brought me into ſuch a taking, that what with love, and what with ſorrow, I tooke ſuch paſſions, as brought me to a weake taking: And yet I was taken among the beſt for an honeſt man, and a well meaning. But in taking my courtly courſe, my word was ſo taken in every corner, and my name ſo taken in every booke, that I grew ſo afraid of takers, that I durſt not almoſt goe into any place for feare of taking. And to thinke of the ſundry kinds of taking, it is ſtrange to thinke, that any one ſhould be taken up, and taken downe ſo many wayes as I was. If I but courted a wench, I was taken for a wencher; if I talked merrily, I was taken for a jeaſter, if I looked ſadly, I was taken for a ſpie; if I were liberall, for a prodigall; if thrifty, for a ſnudge; if valiant, for a quarreller;

if

if patient, a coward; if rich, wiſe; if poore, a foole: ſo that they, who knew not how to take any thing as it ſhould be, tooke me to be any thing that they would have me to be. But this was not enough: for if I gave my word, I was taken for a ſurety; if I brake it, I was taken for a banck-rupt; if I kept it, I was taken for a ſilly fellow; if I talked of a diſeaſe, I was taken for a Phyſitian; if of a caſe a Lawyer; if of armes a Captaine; if of religion, at leaſt a Doctor: ſo that (as I ſaid before) I was taken ſo many wayes, that I knew not well which way to take my ſelfe. But beyond all theſe, not onely my ſelfe was thus taken to be this and that: but my horſe was taken poſt, my purſe was taken priſoner, my word was taken hold of; and what was I, or had I, but was either taken up or downe: my horſe was taken up, my purſe was taken downe; my word was taken up, my mind was taken downe: in briefe, you could not be more miſtaken in any thing, then I was taken for every thing. But leſt you ſhould thinke I ſhould chop Logicke with you, or thinke much of my breath in telling a long tale, I will tell you how I had like to have been taken napping. Going to an Ordinary to dinner, with a friend of mine, who had beene with me at the taking up of a little money, no ſooner we were entred into

it to the house, and scarse set downe to a table, short above an houre for covering towards supper, but wee were taken up for a rest at Primero: when being taken for a gamster, I had the trick put upon me, which no sooner I espied, but having got a small rest or two, faining an urgent businesse, I took occasion to leave off; for which cause I was taken for a cheater. Which fitting some of that place, who taking mee for a fine fingreed companion, fell abord with me for assistance and aduice, so farre, that at last, in an assurance of my fidelitie to them, and villany to all the world besides, they put a sum of money into my hands to goe to play with. Which money, I no sooner was master of, but the wind seruing well, and I in readinesse to bee gone, in the still time of the night, got meanes to ship my selfe for *Roane*: where being a stranger, I was to take what course I well could for my comfort. Where, no sooner I was arived, but I smiled to thinke how I had overtooke my takers. Now comming to *Roane*, and finding diseases so rife, that an honest Phisitian might set his Apothecary well on worke, I made a shew with a little Allume and Copresse, to perswade such wonders of my Art or studie; that who would not give me a good fee for a sore finger? Oh, healing but a Whitloe on a Lords

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thumbe, and the crampe in a Ladies finger, I went for the cunning man, that had a cure for all diſeaſes. So that there was not a yong wench that would have a child; a young man that was weake ſtomaked; an old ſir that was deafe; nor an old Grandam blind; but would ſeeke to mee for remedie. By reaſon whereof, I came to the knowledge of ſome ſecrets, that made me ſought to farre and neere. To be ſhort, I was taken for ſuch a Phyſitian, that I tooke no little profit of my patients. But leaſt my skil would be deſcryed, and ſo my profeſſion diſcredit, I turned all my greetings into gold, which I ſhipt with my ſelfe for *Antwerpe*. But ill gotten, ill ſpent; ere I came halfe way over ſea, I was taken priſoner by a Pyrate, who after hee had taken my goods, keept me in hold for my ranſome: which having payed, and gotten away, take me ever after that what they would, I would take no profeſsion upon mee; but taking the world as I could, I would thinke to uſe it as I had reaſon. And thus much for my two firſt takings. Now recovering my loſſes aſwell as my wits and fortune would give me leave, I began to take an humour of love, and by a little eloquence, and fine diſsimulation, to goe about (as I tooke her) a creature of more beautie then wit; and talke then honeſty. To bee ſhort, ſhee was of the

doubtfull-gender, the common of two or three ſcores, or hundreds, I know not whether. Now, this idle-times miſtreſſe I would have a kind bout withall, to ſee if my wit could help my purſe in going beyond the wiles of a woman: but while I ſtood gazing on her leering-eyes, ſhe ſo ſtole away my heart with a vaine affection, that to tell you troth, I was taken in love, and that ſo faſt, as that to take hold of her kindneſſe, ſhe tooke hold of my coſt. For if ſhe but ſpake of that ſhe liked, if my purſe could purchaſe it, ſhe was ſure to haue it: ſo that in a little time, ſhe tooke my kindneſſe ſo kindly, that I was counted the kindeſt man (I will not ſay, foole) in the world. Oh, I was not onely ſo taken, but ſo overtaken with this taking-miſtreſſe, that ſhe brought me into ſuch a taking, as is ſcarce worth the talking of. Oh, mine eyes were ſo taken with beauty, my heart with vanity, my wits with folly, and my purſe with prodigality; that had I not the ſooner left this Taker, I had left nothing for taking. Now ſir, being thus weary of my love-taking, or my taking lover, I began to bethinke me what courſe I were beſt to take for my comfort: when finding many malicious people, that could not live quietly with their neighbours, ſpend much money to little purpoſe, and ſo fed the Lawyers with fees,

that

that they left their purſes without money: I began to thinke, that a little ſtudy in the Law, would gaine much good in a common-wealth. Whereupon, without much circumſtance I got me into the formall outſide of a iolly fellow; and for the better countenance to my credit furniſhed my ſtudy with more bookes, then I had either time to read, or wit to underſtand. When having gotten acquaintance with ſome ſetters for Clients, rubbing over my poore French, having *Littleton* before me, and a booke of notes, I know not of whoſe writing, I would ſet on ſuch a counſelling countenance, as if I had beene at the barre before I knew the hall: when, what with the multitude of Clients and golden fees, I made ſuch a gaine of my diſſembling, that neere a Lawyer of my ſtanding, but I carried it cleane from him, man and matter and all. In which pritty thriving courſe, I had not continued long, but that being found by my learning unfit to pleade for a blacke-pudding, I was taken for a petty-fogger, and not ſo good as a poore Clarke; ſo that my condition being found to be but a practiſer with cunning, to trouble the quiet of honeſt people, for feare of being turned over the barre, I was faine to turne my compaſſe to another courſe. But to tell you, during the time of my profeſſion, how honeſt a

man I was taken among knaves, and how contrary among honest men, I would be loth to have notice taken: for indeede I was rather a bench-whistler, then a bencher; and more meete (for my good conscience) to be arraigned at the barre, then to pleade at a barre. But as I said before, lest I should be taken for that I truely was, I left that course, and tooke another inuention by the backe. I got me into a Countrey where I was unknowne, and there hoping that men that sought to win heaven by their good deedes, would surely enrich me with their charitie: I began to counterfeit a diseased creature, and seeming with the ruefull countenance that I framed for the purpose, I would so move the hearts, and picke the purses of kind people, that I doubted not in time to grow a wealthy begger. And with this inuention I went forward, till, after that I had so long followed my profession, that my benefactors grew weary of their liberalitie: it fell out by good, or ill hap rather, that I chanced to beg of a very neate and handsome man, who seemed by his mild eye to have a heart pitifull to the distressed. But hee more cunning to pry into the knavery of my dissembling, then to cure me of my disease, if I had had any, asked me of my paine, and how I had beene diseased. Which, when I had untruly

truly told him, hee willed me to come home to him, and he would undertake to heale me. Oh how glad I seemed of his kindneſſe, and promiſed to waite upon him, with many humble thankes. But fearing this my undertaker ſhould ſo overtake me in taking mee napping in my knavery, I fairely tooke my way out of the towne, and never came within the gates after. Thus was I almoſt overtaken with a water, before I had made my fire burne halfe kindly. To be ſhort, if I ſhould tell you all the courſes that I have taken, and how I have beene taken in every of them, I ſhould make you thinke all your miſtaking but a trifle, in compariſon of many a miſerable taking, that I have beene in.

Dor. Why man, ſo long as you never tooke any courſe ſo farre out of compaſſe, but you could gueſſe whereabouts you were; nor ever went ſo farre any way, but you could find the way home againe: let us take hands together like good friends and take all well that hath hit well, and warning by that hath falne amiſſe, to follow ſuch a folly any further.

Lor. You ſay well but yet ere I make a full end, I will tell you how kindly I was entertained in a place, that by chance I tooke up for my lodging; where being taken as indeede I was,

a man of more honeſtie then wit, and kindneſſe then wealth; after good cheere and welcome, the good-man of the houſe taking me aſide, began to reade me this honeſt leſſon: My friend quoth he, for that I take you for a man of that good diſpoſition, that will take any thing well, that is well meant; let me tell you, there be many men in the world, that with miſtaking the right courſe of diſcretion, run ſuch wild courſes as bring many of them into many pitifull takings. Som no ſooner come into their land, but they take up their rents afore the day, ſo long, that they are ready to make a new taking for an old matter: other take money for leaſes, ere they know the value of their lands: other take money for their lands, ere they well know the Summary of their rents. All theſe are commonly taken priſoners, either with the heart-ach for want of money; or the head-ach, for want of wit. And, for many of them, they are taken either with the beggar, the theefe, the cheater, or the foole. Some when they have nothing to take to, will take a wife to helpe forward a miſchiefe, or mend an ill matter, but ſuch a one may hap to take a wrong ſow by the eare, that may bite him by the fingers for his labour: another perhaps takes upon him to be a Phiſitian, or a Surgeon, and with a pill and a plaſter, makes profeſsion

feſion of great wonders. Now he with taking upon him much skill, takes much money, and though for want of knowledge, or through crafty villany, hee is determined to make a gaine of his patient, hee will one day give him eaſe, and another day torment, as he finds the nature of his purſe, in ſtead of his pulſes. Now, is it not pittie, but that ſuch a horſe-leech were taken and hanged, and to make a gaine of griefe, will bring any Chriſtian into ſuch a taking?

LOR. O Lord, is it poſsible, that there is any ſuch creature in the world, that by ſo diveliſh a nature will ſhew himſelfe ſuch a dog?

DOR. Too many, but give me leave a little. Some take upon them to be Divines, which onely make the name of God a cloke for their knavery: But theſe may rather be called lurch-men then Church-men, who as they are not troubled with much learning, ſo they have no more honeſty, then they may well away withall. But theſe who take eleven for tenths, and yet can ſcarſe reade any other names, then are written in their Eaſter-bookes, is it not pitty, but their places were taken away from them, and given to them that could and would take more carefull paines in them?

LOR. I take it ſo: but there is ſuch ſtrange takings, and takers in the world, that, if God

did not take the more mercy on them, ſurely the devill would take away a great many of them: but let them go.

Dor. There are others that will take upon them to be Lawyers: and theſe having ſcarce read a line of *Littleton*, onely acquainted with a common caſe, either in the maſculine or the feminine gender, will ſet a ſolemne countenance upon the matter, and taking money enough for fees, will bring poore clients into ſuch a taking, that, if they perceive not the ſooner, how they are taken with the foole, they will feele themſelves too late to be taken with the begger. Now theſe kind of injurious privy profeſſors of the Law will take of all hands in all matters, and when they are taken napping with the matter, they take ſmall hearts griefe at any puniſhment that doth befall them. Now, is it not pity that ſuch petty-foggers, as will pry into mens titles, pleade on both ſides, and take all they can come by, were not taken from the barre, and barred for ever comming more at a barre?

Lor. Yea, methinkes it is a great ſcandall to the Law, that ſuch an offender of the Law, as ſo abaſeth the Law, ſhould not be more ſharpely puniſhed by the Law.

Dor. You ſay well, but let me tell you a little more of takers. There are other, that if they

they can write Item for a yeard of Satten, a halfe elle and quarter of Taffety, fold up a piece of Grogeram, aske what lacke you, and ſell an elle of Siprous, why he takes himſelfe to be a Merchant, and that of no meane account in his pariſh. But let him be, if he can make a gaine of a countenance, he is worthy to live by his wit: but if he can take up wares or money upon dayes, not caring for the payment, till he have inriched himſelfe with other mens goods, and upon a ſuddaine take Lud-gate, and pay them with the Banck-rupt; is it not pitty but that he who ſo abuſeth the credit of a Merchant, ſhould be baniſhed for ever comming more into the city?

LOR. Alas, if a poore Gentleman breake day, in the payment of fourty ſhillings, the Sergeants will take him priſoner, and all the towne will take him for a ſhifter: but God bleſſe me out of ſuch takings.

DOR. Well, there are ſo many ill takers, that it is pitty there is no better orders taken with them, but let them goe. Now there are ſome that take all that comes, till being taken napping, the hangman taketh order with their clothes. Other take another mans wife for their owne, that being taken with the matter, either

fall

fall into a pittifull taking for their knavery, or make their purſes take order for their delivery. all theſe, with many more, are wicked courſes to be taken. But to leave all occaſions of ill taking: take a good courſe, ſerue God, take a bit at home, rather then a banquet abroad, and water of thine owne, then wine of anothers: take account with thine eſtate for the defraying of thy charge, take no rent before the day, take no counſell with the wicked, take no pleaſure in vanity, leſt when thou want that is neceſſary, you receive comfort with ſorrow, or deſpaire in miſery: take not a wife without wealth, for it will helpe to hold love; nor without wit, for there is no plague to a foole; nor without grace, for it is a hell to be jealous; nor without beauty, for there is no pleaſure in deformity; nor without education, for a ſlut will be noyſome, and a novice idle; take her not too old for conſcience ſake, nor too yong for thrifts ſake; take knowledge of her, ere you love her, leſt if you be miſtaken, you were better to be without her. And laſt of all, take heed of a Whore, a paire of Dice, a Paraſite, a Pandor, a Cheater, a Flatterer, and a Promooter. Take a Courtier for a fine man, a Lawyer for a wiſe man, a Souldier for a valiant man, a Divine for a learned man, a Merchant for a rich man, a Clowne for a painefull man

man, and a begger for a poore man: but for an honeſt man, take him as you find him, in what eſtate ſo ever he be: If he be in a great one, give him honour; if in a meane one give him praiſe. Now if you find Wealth, Valour, Wiſedome, Learning, Labour, and Honeſty, all in one man; note him for a rare man, and take him for the beſt man. But, becauſe in many it falleth out, that Wealth cauſeth pride; Wit, cunning; Learning, pollicy; Valour, diſcord; Paines, griefe; and Poverty, miſery: take good notice of every man that you have to deale withall, and have to doe with as few as you can. And for an end, if a good occaſion may be taken, ſlip it not; if a good gift may be taken, refuſe it not: and if you have taken a good courſe, leave it not. Take God for thy chiefe good, thy wit for thy ſeruant thy wife for thy companion, and thy children for thy comfort: and what thou haſt, take patiently and thankfully. So ſhalt thou be ſure, at the count-taking of all the world, thou ſhalt be taken into the joyes everlaſting. This rule was I taught to take by them, whom I juſtly tooke, and truly found my good friends. So my good frind, for that I take a geſſe of a gratious diſpoſition in you, that you will not take ſcorne of a ſmall gift of a poore friend: let me intreate you to take your ſupper and lodging upon my charge,

charge, and this piece of gold towards the defraying of your further charges. Thus when I had thankefully taken his kind offer, and further had well taken to memory his good admonitions, I tooke my leave of him, and according to his counsell tooke my way home againe: where, how happy I should hold my selfe to enjoy your company, I shall make you know by that you find.

LOR. Oh Sir, you have got the start of mee, it was the sute I meant to have made to you: but since it is your fortune to bee afore mee, I am at your will to bee disposed.

DOR. Sir, complements are so common, that they be of small account, and therefore I will say but this: Chuse your owne time, and make your owne welcome.

LOR. If I can requite you, I will not forget you, and let this suffice you: shortly I hope to see you, I will alwayes love you, and wish I could ever be with you.

DOR. What? shall we have old Adverbs? As in absence you may see me, so in silence you may heare mee? I pray you beare mee company home, and I will bring you halfe way backe againe.

LOR.

LOR. Indeede figures are good among ciphers: but honeſt minds have plaine tongues, and therefore not to detract time, I am at your direction.

DOR. I thanke you: Let us goe.

FINIS.